

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A pointing device for use with a keyboard functions  
like a computer mouse. It incorporates a plurality of  
configurable function keys. The pointing device is  
composed of a rolling surface capable of rotation and  
translation that may activate a switch when it is  
depressed. An optical sensor monitors the rotation and  
translation of the rolling surface and translates that  
10 motion into communications interpretable by a mouse  
software driver. An edge sensor allows repositioning of  
the rolling surface without cursor movement when limits  
of travel are reached. The pointing device communicates  
with the computer through a serial communication facility  
15 such as a PS/2 or USB connection. The enclosure  
containing the rolling surface incorporates an aperture  
allowing a portion of the rolling surface to be available  
for manipulation, an elevated support surface for the  
keyboard and provision for palm rests.

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